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# Farm Broadcasters Letter



Letter No. 2202

February 28, 1985

CANKER  
INDEMNITY:  
50%

According to Sec'y of Agriculture John Block, the federal share of indemnity payments to be paid to Florida citrus growers and nursery operators whose plants were destroyed to eradicate citrus canker will be 50 pct. of the replacement value established by state and federal economists and citrus experts. Block said, "Payment to growers has been delayed while state and federal officials worked to establish a common system to pay indemnities. Negotiations had reached an impasse...Rather than hold up the industry's recovery, we're going to honor our commitment to bear 50 pct. of the indemnity costs...."

FmHA ADDS  
EMPLOYEES

The Farmers Home Administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will immediately begin hiring 435 temporary employees in 10 midwest and southeast states to help process farm loan applications. These 435 positions are in addition to the 849 positions announced last week for 11 midwest states, authorizing a total of 1,284 temporary employees. The extra staff will be hired for four months to help with the seasonal loan peak and the debt restructuring set asides and guarantees.

U.S. EXPORTS  
OF CORN GLUTEN  
FEED AND MEAL

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, corn gluten feed and meal exports for calendar 1984 rose to a record level of just over 3.6 million tons, up slightly from 1983. The European Community continued to be the primary export destination, accounting for 3.5 million tons or 97 pct. of 1984 trade. Japan was a distant second, taking 83,000 tons. Earlier forecasts predicted a drop in EC corn gluten feed imports in 1984 due to higher use of low-priced EC grain and reduced demand for dairy feed. However, U.S. exports to the Community were only off about 50,000 tons from 1983.

EXOTIC  
NEWCASTLE  
UPDATE

U.S. Department of Agriculture officials found exotic Newcastle disease in a pet bird wholesaler's premises in Puerto Rico on Feb. 12. The San Juan firm, owned by Bird Country, is under quarantine and all sales will be traced. The current outbreak started when a pet bird in Tampa, Fla., was declared positive for the disease on Jan. 17. A second premises was declared positive in Miami on Feb. 4. More than 2,400 pet birds have been destroyed, including those in Puerto Rico. Investigations are continuing in 16 states and Puerto Rico.

WATER SUPPLY  
IN WEST FOR '85

The water supply outlook for the West in 1985 remains good even though precipitation in Jan. was much below normal in large portions of the region, according to the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Commerce. Reservoir storage remained excellent throughout the West, with only Montana and Wash. reporting reservoir storage below normal.

MARKET  
PROMOTION

An international food show, co-sponsored by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and the Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will be held April 22-24, 1985, in Kansas City, MO. This exposition is specifically designed for exporters, and is expected to attract over 1,500 buyers from 76 foreign countries. For more information contact F. Farell Higbee, Suite 710, 1616 H St., N.W., Wash., D.C. 20006. Tel: 202/628-1566.

U.S. CHICKENS  
TO JAPAN  
DOWN

Exports of U.S. chicken to Japan dropped from a record 64,000 tons in 1983 to an estimated 51,000 tons in 1984, a decrease in the U.S. market share from 64 pct. in 1983 to about 50 pct. in 1984. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, several factors contributed to this decline: Lower domestic prices resulting from increased Japanese broiler production; an increasing trend away from consumption of bone-in chicken; and increased competition from Brazil.

EMERGENCY  
LOANS TO  
MISS.

Sec'y of Agriculture John Block named 32 counties in Mississippi as eligible for Farmers Home Administration emergency loans because of losses due to excessive rainfall Oct. 1 to Nov. 30, 1984. In addition, 35 counties are eligible because they're contiguous. Farmers in those counties have eight months to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses.

NEW RULES FOR  
VET BIOLOGICS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposes to enable nonlicensed manufacturers of veterinary biologics to volunteer to gradually bring their products up to federal standards over a four-year period. Manufacturers of veterinary biologics must be licensed by USDA if they ship any products interstate. However, a number of manufacturers currently produce biologics for intrastate sale only and therefore are not under USDA regulation. Under the proposal, manufacturers could get a federal license to produce both licensed and unlicensed products in the same establishment for an interim period of up to four years. Public comments are due April 29 and may be sent to Thomas O. Gessel, APHIS, USDA, 728 Federal Bldg., Hyattsville, MD 20782.

NOT WEEVILY,  
BUT INFESTED

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is asking for public comment on a proposal that would provide two options for certifying insect-infested grain in railcars and trucks. The proposal would also require certification of additives applied to officially inspected grain. Under the proposal, USDA would certify infested carriers either with a special grade designation indicating the carrier is infested, or, if fumigated according to USDA instructions, without the special grade designation. The grade "Weevily" would be replaced with the special grade designation, "Infested." Comments due by April 26, to Lewis Lebakken, Jr., USDA, FGIS, Room 0667 South, Wash., D.C. 20250. Phone: 202/382-1738.

FOOT & MOUTH  
IN ITALY

An epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease has spread throughout Italy, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As of mid-Jan., 71 outbreaks were diagnosed in various parts of Italy. An extensive vaccination program is being carried out. Other European Community countries have adopted restrictive measures against live animals and meat products from Italy.

FROM OUR  
TELEVISION  
SERVICE

"Farm Bill Proposal"...Secretary of Agriculture John Block gives highlights of the proposed Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1985. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (326)

"Wheat Outlook"...USDA economist Allen Schienbein focuses on factors contributing to the expected decline in 1985 wheat acreage, and how this decline will affect supply and demand. Vic Powell interviews. (327)

"Vegetable Outlook"...USDA economist John Love takes a look at the outlook for fresh winter vegetables as a result of the late January freeze in Florida. Vic Powell interviews. (328)

"1985 Export Outlook"...USDA economist Steve MacDonald talks about the increase in volume of U.S. agricultural exports and factors contributing to this increase. Lynn Wyvill interviews. (329)

"Estimating Nitrogen Loss"...John Sawyer with the University of Illinois describes a computer program to help farmers decide whether they need nitrogen applications. Gary Beaumont interviews. (330)

WOOD YOU  
BELIEVE?

The Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has more than 100,000 wood samples in its Madison, Wisconsin laboratory. Regis B. Miller, the USDA's "wood detective" helped the National Trust for Historic Preservation identify the wood in the once-beautiful parquet floor in the historic Stephen Decatur House in Washington, D.C. Miller identified the woods as: American black walnut, American holly, ash, bocote, cherry, goncalo alves, imbuia, mahogany, hard and soft maple, pernambuco, primavera, rosewood, Santa Maria, satinwood, and Spanish-cedar.

COLD TOES  
IN PLANT  
WORLD

Chilly soil can reduce the level of zinc and other trace minerals in plants, so people get less in their diets, according to scientists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Crops dislike "cold feet," so even a slight drop in soil temperature slows down the uptake of minerals by roots. New laboratory studies show cold soils keep tap roots from penetrating deeply and putting out a thick network of branch or side roots in the lower depths to absorb minerals. When soil temperatures hover around 50 degrees F., consumers may get less than expected amounts of minerals in foods.

CATFISH  
MULTIPLY

Domestic production of farm-raised catfish during Jan. totaled 13.5 million pounds round weight, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is an increase of 7 pct. from Jan. 1984. The Jan. average price paid to growers was 67 cents per pound, 6 cents above Jan. last year. Net pounds of processed fish sold during Jan. totaled 7.24 million pounds, an increase of 14 pct. from the comparable month in 1984. The Jan. average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.54 per pound for ice pack and \$1.59 for frozen fish. (For more statistical information, call 202/447-2123.)



OFF MIKE

NAFB's illustrious president Johnnie Hood (WPTF/So. Farm Net, Raleigh, NC) heads for South America on March 8 with an American Soybean Association fact finding mission in Brazil and Argentina. Elanco is funding the trip. Johnnie joins five soybean farmers, and Hugh Whaley of ASA is going along to make sure everything holds together. They return March 20 ... We have a free copy of the 1985 Fact Book of U.S. Agriculture for you, if you want one. The supply is limited, so we only have so many copies to give out free. After that, you'll have to buy one from the Government Printing Office. If you want a copy, let me know right away ... Todd Domer is no longer with WIBW, Topeka, KS. He moved over to the Kansas Livestock Assn. ... Cece White is no longer with KOGA/High Plains F/R Net, Ogallala, NE. Change in management policy wiped out his job. He hopes to return to Arizona but is looking for farm broadcasting work elsewhere as well ... Jack Banks (WCKY, Cincinnati, OH) just got out of a leg cast. Seems he trains German shepherds as guard dogs. He says he broke his foot when he was working a dog that was smart enough to jump a ditch. "I wasn't and didn't," is the way Jack reports it ... Farm broadcasters are getting more and more used to using high tech in their work. The latest example comes from Ray Wilkinson (in this case Capital Broadcasting, Raleigh, NC). Capital is handling a satellite link-up of 6 ASA marketing development people from around the world to 16 locations in the U.S....plus farmers with backyard dishes. Ray and co-worker Ken Tanner will moderate the event, which will primarily zero in on reporting soybean marketing efforts ... Bill Ray (Agrinet Farm Net, Richmond, VA) and his wife Lisa are proud new parents of a baby girl. They've named her Rachel Anne. And if you want to know what proud is, talk to Bill! ... Farmers are coming to Washington, D.C., next week. We'll let you know how things went in next week's letter.

FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1448...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Hog producers in the U.S. and Canada have been bumping heads lately over the highly competitive American pork market. On this edition of Agriculture USA, George Holmes examines the issue with U.S. economist Carole Goodloe and Morton Rice of the Canadian Pork Council.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1437...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; The ultimate greenhouse; Cold plants; Export wheat quality.

CONSUMER TIME #930...(Weekly 2½-3 min features) Herbal tea caution; Spring gardening; Smoothing out tomorrow's wrinkles; Co-signing; Noise at the workplace.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Mon, March 11, Crop production report; Tues, Mar. 12, Weekly weather and crop report; Fri, March 15, Livestock slaughter report. Dial the USDA National News Lines 202/488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EST each working day.

  
JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief  
Radio and Television Division